

NOTICE!
JUST RECEIVED
A VERY
SMART ASSORTMENT
Ready to wear Hat
FOR THE
PRESENT SEASON.
M. GAINS,
HOTEL MANSIONS
(over Messrs Kruse & Co.)

The China Mail.

ESTABLISHED 1845

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JUST RECEIVED
A VERY
SMART ASSORTMENT
Ready to wear Hat
FOR THE
PRESENT SEASON.
M. GAINS,
HOTEL MANSIONS
(over Messrs Kruse & Co.)

No. 14,284

號五廿月正年九零百九千一英

HONGKONG, MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1909.

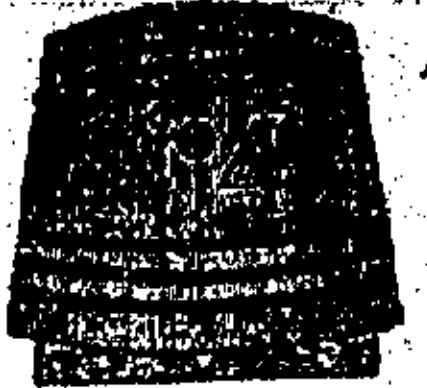
日四初月正年九百九千一英

PRICE, \$3.00 Per Month.

Intimations.

THORNE'S
OLD VAT

\$15
PER
CASE



As supplied
to the
House of
Commons.

(THIS WHISKY WAS STARTED BY THE LATE ROBERT THORNE
OF GLENROCK AND HAS BEEN SOLD SINCE 1850)

SCOTCH WHISKY.

SOLE AGENTS IN
HONGKONG, CHINA & MANILLA.
A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.
Hongkong, May 1, 1907. 783

THE LATE MR. A. P. MARTY.

Hongkong lost one of its oldest and most successful foreign residents on Friday (China New Year's Day) when Mr. A. Pietro Marty passed away after a very short period of illness from double pneumonia. Coming to the Colony in 1871, he started in business at the age of 17 with his brother A. P. Marty, and soon the firm was working a flourishing connection with the French possessions, the Philippines and Formosa. He travelled a good deal in Tonkin at one time, visited the Philippines and was in Formosa at the time of Admiral Courbet's expedition in 1885. Since 1900 he has not been away from Hongkong. For many years Mr. Marty was Spanish Consul in Hongkong, with jurisdiction in Canton also, and accordingly at the funeral on Saturday the coffin was draped in the emblazoned colours of Aragon and Castile. The Roman Catholic Cathedral was crowded with mourners, among those present being the Consular Body, French and Spanish residents, Bishop Clement of Amoy, Bishop Pozzoni and the Roman Catholic Clergy. From the Cathedral, the cortege proceeded to the Cemetery, being joined on the way by many others, amongst whom were Captain Mitchell Taylor representing H. E. the Governor, Captain Heathcote, representing H. E. General Broadwood, Commander Grenfell, representing Commodore Lyon, Sir Francis Pigott, the Harbour Master, Hon. Com. Basil Taylor, R. N. The Burial Service was read by Bishop Pozzoni, assisted by all the Roman Catholic clergy. Mr. Liebert, French Consul, said a few words at the graveside, thanking all those who had come to honour a brave Frenchman and expressing his sympathy with the family.

The chief mourners were Mr. Borin-Goosse, of the Banque de l'Indo-Chine, and Mr. Volpicelli, Consul General for Italy, one of the oldest friends of the deceased, their friendship dating back to 1885. Beautiful wreaths, floral anchors and crosses were sent, among them being those from Mrs. Marty, Misses Marty, Miss Louisa Rose, Sir Frederick and Lady Lugard, Captain Taylor, A.D.C., Capt. Simson, A.D.C., Mr. Brackenbury, Mr. and Mrs. Volpicelli, Mr. and Mrs. Bribosia, Mr. and Mrs. Van Houten, Mr. and Mrs. Funsten, Mr. Moreno, Com. and Mrs. Basil Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Wendt, Dr. and Mrs. Grono, Mr. and Mrs. Berardo ague, Mr. and Mrs. Le Cerduner, Mr. and Mrs. Brotherton Harker, Captain and Mrs. Wait, Mr. and Mrs. Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. Seth, Mr. and Misses Lacroix, Mr. and Mrs. Dunn, Mr. and Mrs. Bland, Mr. and Mrs. Stephens, Mr. Andup, Mr. Nieldhardt, Mr. de Champmorin, Mr. Sequeira, Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald, the Spanish Consul, the Chinese Staff of Marty and Co., Mr. H. P. White, J. B. Gutierrez and sons, and many others.

Mrs. Marty feels deeply all the kind sympathy shown to her during her husband's illness and after her irreparable loss, but is too preoccupied at present to write and express her thanks and hopes to be forgiven if by any involuntary inadvertence, she should later omit to express her gratitude.

The Mother Superior of the Italian Convent desires to express her most sincere and grateful thanks to Mr. Ramon, of the Victoria Cinematograph, for so kindly giving a performance on behalf of "The Home for the Poor" on Friday as well as to the public who so kindly attended. The Convent kindly received the sum of \$1.

Business Notices.

W. S. BAILEY & CO.,
ENGINEERS AND SHIPBUILDERS

Engines, Boilers, Steam Pumps and Fittings.

KELVIN MOTOR, 7-9 H.P. FOR SALE.

Office: Hotel Mansions.

"SOUVENIR"
CALENDAR, BLOTTER AND NOTE-BOOK

UNIQUE AND USEFUL

EVERY LADY SHOULD HAVE ONE.
Chinese Wishes in Chinese Characters for Chinese New Year.
JUST THE THING TO SEND HOME.

ENGAGEMENTS
VISITING LIST
ADDRESSES
'MY MOTTOES'
ACCOUNTS PAID
ARTICLES BORROWED
INTERCHANGEABLE BLOTTER.

NOTES FOR MONTH
CALDS RECEIVED AND PAID.
TELEPHONE No.
'LET US FORGET'
IMPORTANT LETTERS
ARTICLES LENT

Published by K. A. MASSEY.
Sold by BREWER Co., Ltd., KELLY & WALSH, Ltd., and at the
CHINA MAIL and the S. C. MORNING POST Offices. Price \$2.50.
Hongkong, December 12, 1908. 1364

THEATRE ROYAL CITY HALL.

TUESDAY, February 2nd, at 9 p.m.

PREMYSLAV

(Violin Virtuoso)

OF EUROPEAN FAME.

Kindly assisted by Mrs J. COCHRANE.

Plan now open at the ROBINSON PIANO Co., Ltd.
Hongkong, January 25, 1909.

WILKS & JACK, LD.

ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS,

14, DES VŒUX ROAD CENTRAL.

TELEPHONES 358 and 38 K. TELEGRAMS 'MARINEWORK.'

**HEAT BY
ELECTRICITY.**

Electric Kettles { Will boil water quickly, cheaply and safely.
Electric Radiators { Represents a safe and up-to-date method of heating.

Electric Shaving Pots Convenient and useful.

Electric Hot Plates Serve a dozen wants.

IN FACT

ELECTRICITY CAN BE APPLIED IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

Large stocks carried and on view at Hongkong Showrooms
ALSO

HANDSOME ELECTRIC FITTINGS, FANCY SHADES.

Wires, Cables, Fans, Fills and
Lamps, etc., etc.

and all Electrical Ships supplies in Stock.

ELECTRO PLATING WORKSHOPS AT KOWLOON.

HOUSE AND SHIP DINNER SERVICES, Etc., REPLATED AND MADE

EQUAL TO NEW.

BRONZING, LAQUERING, Etc., ALL SHADES. ASK FOR CATALOGUE.
Hongkong, April 1, 1908. 501

NIGHT STEAMER TO
CANTON.

NEW, TWO SCAFF STEAMERS.

S.S. SAN CHEUNG

Fitted throughout with Electric Light
and Fans supplied in all cabins.
(Captain J. McGarry).

LEAVES Hongkong for Canton at 5 P.M.
SUNDAY, TUESDAY & THURSDAY.

Leave Canton for Hongkong at 5.30 P.M. on

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY.

First Class Cabin—\$3 single passage.

Second Class Cabin—\$1 single passage.

Servants' passages must be paid for.

CHONG HING STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.
No. 286, Des Vœux Road Central.
Hongkong, November 12, 1908. 1140

AMERICAN DENTISTRY.

PORCELAIN FILLINGS.

ALL the Latest Improvements towards
Lasting Workmanship, and Painless
Operations. No Charge for Examination.
FREE MODERATE. DENTON, TOKIO.

DR. T. YAMASAKI,
34, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL
(Opposite Post Office).

Hongkong, November 12, 1908. 1658

KOWLOON HOTEL.

IN HONOUR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF H.M. KAISER WILLIAM II.
A BIRTHDAY DINNER
will be served on WEDNESDAY, the 27th instant, at 7.30 P.M.
SPECIAL MENU.

PRIVATE DINING ROOM FOR PARTIES.
C. T. OWEN, Proprietor.

Business Notices.

BELL'S ASBESTOS EASTERN AGENCY, LIMITED

(SOLE AGENTS FOR BELL'S ASBESTOS CO., LTD., LONDON).

SAVE FUEL BY COVERING YOUR BOILERS AND STEAMPIPES

WITH
BELL'S ASBESTOS NON-CONDUCTING COMPOSITION.

ESTIMATES GIVEN
FOR WORK FINISHED COMPLETE.

OR SUPPLIED IN
Bags of 1 cwt. each.

OFFICE:—
4, QUEEN'S BUILDINGS.

TELEPHONE No. 601.

TELEGRAMS: ASBESTOS, HONGKONG.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

TAILORING DEPARTMENT

SPECIAL OFFER FOR ONE MONTH

of our SUPERB STOCK OF SUITINGS at the following Exceptional

Prices FOR CASH.

SCOTCH AND CHEVIOT TWEED SUITS, ANGOLAS,

CASHMERE AND LLAMAS

at \$35, \$38, \$40 and \$45.

BLUE & BLACK SERGES, VICUNAS, Etc.

at \$35, \$38 and \$40.

CASHMERE TROUSERS... \$12 \$14 \$16

FANCY VESTS... \$7.50 \$8.50 \$10

OVERCOATS... \$35 \$40

DRESS SUITS, Silk Lined... \$75 \$85

DRESS DINNER SUITS, Silk Lined... \$70 \$80

NOTICE:—All above Materials are quite NEW and of the VERY BEST quality

and Latest Patterns.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

MEE CHEUNG & CO.,

PHOTOGRAPHERS.

SPLENDID PICTURES

of the

AMERICAN FLIGHT AT AMOY.

STUDIO—107, HOUSE STREET. STORE—BRADONSFIELD ABOARD.

1901

THE HONGKONG HOTEL

UNRIVALED FOR COMFORT AND COUSINE

THOROUGHLY UP TO DATE WITH EVERY MODERN LUXURY.

MODERATE TERMS AND NO EXTRAS

A. F. DAVIES, Manager.

1901

PEAK HOTEL

ADAMIRABLY SITUATED AT VICTORIA GAP.

Adjoining the Tramway Terminus, 1,400 feet above Sea Level.

OPEN to the South, Wind in Summer and protected from the North-east Winds in

Winter. Commanding a fine, almost view of Hongkong, the Harbour and adjacent

islands for forty miles.

A FIRST-CLASS FAMILY, RESIDENTIAL AND TOURISTS' HOTEL.

Terms—From \$5 per day. Town Office: 4, DES VŒUX ROAD.

Hongkong, February 8, 1908. 21

ASTOR HOUSE HOTEL

(LATE CONNAUGHT HOTEL).

QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL

CENTRALLY situated, up-to-date Hotel. Recently renovated and under entirely

New Management. Large and Comfortable Rooms, Excellent Cuisine, under the

supervision of an experienced French Chef.

PARTICULARS AND RATES on application to MANAGER.

L. GANEAU, Proprietor. N. BLUMENTHAL, Manager.

Hongkong, October 3, 1908. 1361

ORIENTAL HOTEL

No. 2, Queen's Road Central.

Telephone No. 197.

Mrs M. MATTHEW, Proprietress.

By kind permission of Major CHITTY and Officers of the 105th

Mahratta Light Infantry, the band of the Regiment will

play during and after DINNER on SATURDAY, January 30.

M. MATTHEW, Proprietress.

Hongkong, September 24, 1907. 1840

HOTEL BALTIMORE,

No. 2 WYNDHAM STREET

(On Flower Street, opposite the Post Office).

(UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT).

A First-Class, Comfortable, Private, Family Boarding Residence and Tourist Hotel.

Lefty and Airy Rooms. Good Cuisine. Centrally situated, easy reach of business

parts of the town. Home Comforts. Terms Moderate.

Apply to MANAGERESS, Mrs. E. ROGERS,

"HOTEL BALTIMORE,"

or Mrs. WHITE, "STYLAND HOUSE," Proprietress.

Hongkong, August 25, 1908. 11

Business Notices.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO., LD.

PORTLAND CEMENT

In Casks of 375 lbs. net, \$5.50 per Cask, ex Factory.

In Bags of 250 lbs. net, \$3.45 per Bag, ex Factory.

Shewan, Tomes & Co.,

GENERAL MANAGERS.

RACES 1909.

FAIRALL & CO.

ARE SHOWING AN ASSORTMENT OF

SMART NEW DRESS FABRICS,

NEW MILLINERY, FLOWERS

AND FEATHERS.

Fur, Feather & Lace Boas, Sunshades.

ALL SUITABLE FOR THE RACE SEASON.

7 & 9, PEDDER STREET. TELEPHONE 244

RACES.

Paris-made nice Artistic Sterling Silver Race Cups.

Single and double handed Race Watches.

Military, Marine and Race Binocular Glasses.

Nice Selection of Diamond Jewellery.

J. ULLMANN & CO.

34, Queen's Road Central, Opposite General Post Office.

Hongkong, January 22, 1909.

Cruikshank's Cough Remedy

A Valuable Remedy for Influenza, Colds, Bronchitis, Asthma, and

all diseases of the Chest and Lungs—Price \$1.00 per Bottle.

Aniseed and Licorice Cough Balsam

For the Relief of Coughs, Colds, Hoarseness and Soreness of the

Chest—50 cts. and \$1.00.

Martin's Mixture

A specific for Influenza, Hay Fever, Cold in the Head—Price \$1.

VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

THE HONGKONG STEAM LAUNCH CO.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: PEDRADO. TELEPHONE: (Office No. 142)

A. F. G. CODE. (Works No. 742)

LAUNCHES FOR SALE, HIRE, OR CHARTER.

For Picnic, Shooting, Bathing Parties, Towing, &c.

Launches for Hire, lying off Blake Pier during the day.

OFFICES: ST. GEORGE'S BUILDING (Second Floor).

GORDON & CO., General Managers

Hongkong, June 1, 1908. 119

BREWER & Co., Limited.

PEDDER STREET—ADJOINING MAIN ENTRANCE HONGKONG HOTEL.

TELEPHONE No. 696.

COLONIAL NOVELS

By Faith Alone, by Rene Bado. The House in the Water, by Chas. & D.

The Moth and the Flame, by Alice Mand. Purple Love, by Maria Casari.

Meadows. We of the Aerie, by Mrs. Anne

A Set of Six, by Joseph Conrad. The Riverman, by Stewart Edward White.

The Diva's Baby, by F. Marion Crawford. The Inn Road, by Jack London.

The Green Mile, by Anthony Hope. The Last Vindictive, by M. P. West.

Levi's Road, by Mary Johnston. The London Law, by John Galsworthy.

The Altar Stairs, by G. E. Lancaster. Round the Fire Stove, by A. Conan Doyle.

Interplay, by Beatrice Harridan.

Queen Alexandra's Gift Book... \$2.50

Letters of Queen Victoria... \$2.50

Partisanship, by F. Berkeley Smith... \$2.50

Shilling Round the World, by Marshall F. Wilde... \$2.50

How Paris Amuses Itself, by F. F. Berkeley Smith... \$2.50

In London Town, by Do... \$2.50

The Real Latin Quarter, by Do... \$2.50

Honorable Elite, by Greenville Kleiser... \$2.50

V. O. S.

AND

Extra Special Finest Liqueur.

ARE THE BEST WHISKIES OBTAINABLE

Galdbeck, Macgregor & Co.

110, Des Vœux Road Central.

Hongkong, 11th December, 1908.

POWELL'S

ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS.

Fine = = = \$10 PER MONTH.

Footwear

FOR
LADIES.
ELEGANT SHAPES.
Moderate Prices.

HARMSTON'S GRAND CIRCUS

TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT!
FIRST CHANGE OF PROGRAMME
FIRST CHANGE OF PROGRAMME
15 Brilliant Acts 15
BY OUR ALL STAR COMPANY OF LONDON
AND CONTINENTAL ARTISTS.

30 IN NUMBER 30

N.B.—A Special Service of Cars will run between the Post Office and the Circus before and after the performance.

THE GREAT SENSATION ACT.
LOOPING THE LOOP
ALSO
THE GREAT ANIMAL ACT
BY JOHN AND PAUL RAGOU

AND THE
MARVELOUS FRANTZ TROUPE
OF ACROBATS, 6 IN NUMBER.

MATINEE (WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY)
DAY, Jan. 27th & 30th.
Doors open at 2.30 p.m.

Performance at 3.30 p.m. sharp.
Children Half-price at Matinees only to all parts of the Circus.

Booking at ROBINSON PLANO CO., Ltd.
For Full Particulars See Handbills.

COL. R. LOVE, Manager.
Hongkong, January 11, 1909.

VICTORIA CINEMATOPH.

EVERY SATURDAY,
GRAND MATINEE, 4 p.m.

Songs by Miss MONTEZ and
Miss LAURA DIAMOND

TWO PERFORMANCES NIGHTLY
7.15 to 9 p.m. and 9.15 to 11.15 p.m.

Tickets can also be obtained at the
ROBINSON PLANO CO.

Don't Forget the Address:
DES VŒUX ROAD
(POTTINGER STREET CORNER).

Hongkong, December 23, 1907. 1746

Try our...

MAGLEAY DUFF'S

SCOTCH WHISKIES
IMPERIAL LIQUEUR

AND
SPECIAL LIQUEUR CREAM.

Finest and best blends obtainable.
Thoroughly matured and palatable.

SOLE AGENTS:

PATELL & CO.,

SHAMHEEN, CANTON.

DIRECT IMPORTERS
OF

English, American & German
Provisions.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE
INSURANCE COMPANY.

TOTAL FUNDS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1907.
£18,114,624.

Authorized Capital £5,000,000
Subscribed Capital £2,700,000

Paid-up Capital £2,700,000 0 0
Reserve Funds 3,055,374 15 1
Life & Annuity Funds 14,515,642 10 1
Sinking Fund Account 45,607 5 8

£18,114,624 11 7

Revenue—Fire Branch £2,880,869 18 1
Life & Annuity 1,847,224 18 4
Branches 2,289 5 8
Sinking Fund Account 2,289 5 8

£4,118,169 16 11

The Accumulated Funds of the Fire and Life Branches are free from liability to payment of such claims.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.,
Agents.

NEW PIANOS

ON HIRE
AT

\$10 PER MONTH.

Tuning and Regular

Attention Inclusive.

S. MOUTRIE & Co.,

LIMITED.

Hongkong, April 16, 1907.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

A. S. WATSON

& Co., Ltd.

WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

BRANDY:

A SUPERIOR PALE \$1.60

B SUPERIOR OLD COGNAC 2.00

WATSON'S *** COGNAC 2.00

C SUPERIOR OLD LIQUEUR
COGNAC 2.50

D VERY FINE OLD PALE LI-
QUEUR COGNAC 3.00

E FINEST OLD BROWN
BRANDY 3.50

SHERRY:

Per Bottle.
LIGHT DRY \$1.05

B VINO DE PASTO 1.10

CC OLOROSO 1.50

D SUPERIOR PALE DRY 1.65

E FINEST PALE DRY, NUTTY 2.15

PORT:

Per Bottle.
B *** RED SEAL CAPSULE \$1.25

C SUPERIOR LIGHT INVALID,
GREEN SEAL CAPSULE 1.50

D *** VIOLET SEAL
CAPSULE 2.10

E VERY FINE OLD TAWNY,
WHITE SEAL CAPSULE 3.00

NOTE.—Port, after removal, should be
rested for a Month before use.

Wine required for IMMEDIATE use
should be ordered to be decanted before
being sent out.

These Wines are specially recom-
mended, being of superior vintage, old,
and thoroughly matured, and in fine
condition.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,

LIMITED.

ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS (AND
KOWLOON BRANCH).

THE CITY OF PARIS,

3, PEDDER STREET.

PHONE No. 536.

Ready made Day and Even-
ing Gowns, Paris Models
in Hats and Toques,
Laces, Trimmings, Under-
clothing, Boots and Shoes,
Hosiery and Gloves, etc.,
etc.

MEMOS FOR TO-MORROW.

Amusements.
9 p.m.—Hampson's Grand Circus at
Canoway Bay.

Miscellaneous
Goods per *Paris* undelivered after this
date subject to rent.

General Memoranda.

WEDNESDAY, January 27.—
Noon—Meeting of Hongkong Benevolent
Society at City Hall.

2.30 p.m.—Military Gun Practice.
3.30 p.m.—Auction of English E.P. Ware
at Mr Geo. F. Lammer's Sales
Rooms.

THURSDAY, January 28.—
11.15 a.m.—Meeting of Hongkong Land
Reclamation Co., Ltd., at Co.'s Office.

11.30 a.m.—Meeting of The West Point
Building Co., Ltd., at Co.'s Office.

Noon—Meeting of Hongkong Land In-
vestment & Agency Co., Ltd., at Co.'s
Office.

2.30 p.m.—Auction of Household Furni-
ture, &c., at No. 6, Victoria View,
Howloon.

Goods per *Tamba Maru* not cleared on
this date subject to rent.

FRIDAY, January 29.—
2.30 p.m.—Meeting of Campbell, Moore
& Co., at 1st Floor, 54, Des Voeux Rd.

NOTICE.

Communications relating to news should be
addressed to THE EDITOR.

Letters relating to business should be address-
ed to THE MANAGER.

Correspondents must forward their names and
addresses with any communications ad-
dressed to the Editor, not for publication, but
as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written
on one side of the paper only.

No anonymously signed communications that
have already appeared in other papers will be
inserted.

Orders for extra copies of the *China Mail*
should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day after
publication. After that hour the supply is
limited. Cash 10 cts., Credit 20 cts., per
copy.

Alterations and additions to Advertisements
on Pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, should be sent to the
Office, No. 5, Wyndham Street, not later than 11
a.m. New Advertisements should be sent in
before 5 p.m.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are
not ordered for a fixed period will be continued
until countermanded.

Telegraphic Address: Mail, Hongkong.
Telephone No. 22.

The China Mail.

HONGKONG, MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1909.

ENGLISH POOR LAW AND ITS
REFORM.

A White Paper issued in London on
December 16th showed that the total
expenditure on poor relief in England
and Wales during the half-year ended
at Lady Day, 1908, was £7,206,872,
being £174,064, or 2.4 per cent, in excess
of the figures for the corresponding
half-year in 1906-7. Of this sum
£1,957,110 was spent in London and
£5,337,762 outside the Metropolis. The
aggregate number of persons in receipt
of Poor Law relief in England and
Wales on January 1st, 1908, viz.,
928,671, was 0.9 per cent. higher than
in the previous year. In London,
where the number relieved was 148,856,
the increase was a good deal higher,
being 2.5 per cent. In relation to the
population the aggregate expenditure
was equivalent to a rate of 4/2 per
head as compared with 4/1½ in the half-
year ended Lady Day, 1907. The
corresponding rate in London was 8/2
per head, being 1/4 less than in the
earlier half-year.

Apart from London, the rate per head
of the aggregate expenditure on the
maintenance of indoor paupers and
out-relief, as compared with population,
is highest in counties which are largely
of a rural character, and where the rate
of out-relief per head of population is
also high, whilst the counties which have
low rates are those in which for the most
part there are large urban and indus-
trial centres, and in which the rate per
head of out-relief is also low. As re-
gards out-relief, increase in the expendi-

ture on the boarding out of pauper
children and the number of children
boarded out is noticed. Comparing the
figures for London with the rest of
England and Wales the cost of main-
tenance of indoor paupers in London
per head of population was in 1908
more than three times the cost per head
in the aggregate of the rest of England
and Wales, while the cost of out-relief,
on a similar calculation, was about 38
per cent. lower in London than elsewhere.
Similarly, the number of indoor paupers
relieved in London on the 1st January,
1908, represented 17.3 per 1,000 of the
population, as contrasted with a rate
of only 6.8 per 1,000 in the rest of the
country.

The steady increase in the burden of
poor relief has been the subject of much
careful investigation during the past
few years by men having the welfare of
the nation at heart and accordingly the
report of the Royal Commission on the
Poor Laws, which was appointed several
years ago by the Haldorne administration,
is awaited with a good deal of im-
patience. Now and again some mem-
bers of the Commission, notably Mr
JOHN BURNS and Mr WINSTON CHURCHILL,
have dropped hints in the course of their
public speeches regarding the nature
of the reforms which the Commission
will propose and from their veiled ut-
terances one gathers that these proposals,
when they see the light, will be found
to be radical and drastic. The original
Poor Law of England was framed in the
reign of Queen ELIZABETH, and its last
review and systematic revision occurred
more than 70 years ago. The principle
underlying the Law is that every man
has a right to live, and to demand food,
shelter and clothing from the public
when, through economic conditions,
the accident or sickness, he is not able to
get them for himself. To ensure that
this demand upon the public would
not be made unnecessarily, the principle
was adopted of making the work-houses
as uncomfortable as possible. In some
districts this principle has been carried
out with such success that the man
who wants to be supported by the
public chooses sometimes to break a
window and be sent to jail rather than
to the work-house. In other places,
however, the paupers are treated to a
luxury far surpassing that of the steady
workingman who never loses a day's
time in a year. It depends on the
guardians whether the work-house is
made a place of torment or more
comfortable than a small hotel. But
the worst feature of the present law is
its tendency to manufacture paupers,
rather than to set them on their feet
again, and the law has this effect
whether it is harshly or humanely
administered. It insists on the absolute
pauperdom of the recipient of its charity.
So long as a man has a few sticks of
furniture, or a little capital of any
sort, he cannot be helped under the
Poor Law. He must first sell his
furniture, spend the proceeds, and
enter the work-house absolutely penniless.
Nor may a man who is "broke" place
his wife and children in the work-house,
while he goes out to look for a job. If
he places his family in the work-house
he must enter it himself; and when he
goes out, he must take his family with
him. This provision is a great
hardship in those cases where a man,
while an inmate, has work offered him.
He cannot leave his children where
they are even until he gets his
first week's wages. Out they must
all go together, side by side.

One of the reforms it is expected
the Royal Commission will recom-
mend is the abolition of the conditions
that make it hard for a pauper to
cease being a pauper. It is likely, too,
that all political disabilities will be
removed from those in receipt of relief.
At present, paupers are disfranchised,
and are ineligible for old-age pensions.
Of greater interest is the scheme
outlined by Mr. CHURCHILL, for dealing
with unemployment. Everywhere it is
the "casual labourer," the unskilled
man, who constitutes the greatest
problem of unemployment. The Com-
mission has investigated the subject,
and finds that the casual labourer is

recruited chiefly from the ranks of the
hundreds of thousands of boys who, at
the age of fourteen, become messengers
and office boys. Knowing no trade,
and growing too old for this work, they
enter the field of casual labour. Mr.
CHURCHILL intimates that the commission
will recommend that no boy should be
permitted to become a messenger or
office boy until he is 18 years. It is
likely that the old apprenticeship laws
will be revived and every lad obliged to
learn some trade, and earn his living at
the same time. "The casual labourer,"
said Mr. CHURCHILL recently, "is not a
natural product, but a manufactured
one; and the sooner we recognize that
the better. He is manufactured be-
cause the employers want a reserve of
casual labour to draw on in boom times,
and we must find a way of mak-
ing the employer pay for this." The
remedy is to be found, says the
commission, by making the employer
hire his men by the year, as a farmer
does. Then he will have to pay him
whether he can find him work or not.
The onus of keeping the man busy will
be upon the employer. It is also pro-
posed to establish a Government labour
department whose duty it will be to
regulate the ebb and flow of employ-
ment, much as the Bank of England
regulates commerce by raising or lower-
ing the bank rate.

Such in brief is the scheme as broadly
outlined by Mr. CHURCHILL and Mr. BURNS
when addressing meetings, conferences,
and deputations in connection with the
work of the different Government de-
partments over which they preside. It
would be premature if not idle to
discuss the project before the actual
report is presented but at any rate it is
apparent that a serious attempt will be
made to grapple with a question the
gravity of which increases every year.
The Asquith Government will scarcely
live long enough to take the matter up
seriously, we imagine, but a splendid
legacy will be left to their successors
far more enticing than muddled finance
and rejected domestic legislation.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The English Mail of the 26th Dec.
was delivered in London on the 23rd inst.

A native was fined \$10 at the Marine
Court, to-day, for causing an obstruction
at Observation Pier.

"Jammed the Djambie" is the allit-
erative heading given by the *Manila Cable*
news to the Polytechnic's accident at Singa-
pore.

The *s.s. Keaton*, from Manila reports
having passed the four-masted ship *Law Hill*,
from New York and bound for Manila,
165 days' out, in latitude 14.45 N. and
longitude 120.00 E.

The Yacht Owners of the Royal Hong-
kong Yacht Club will be "At Home" at the
club house on Saturday from 2.30 p.m.
Several races will be contested and a band
will be in attendance.

By kind permission of Major Chitty
and officers of the 106th Mahratta Light
Infantry, the band of the Regiment will
play during and after dinner at the
Oriental Hotel on Saturday, January 30.

The Messageries Maritimes Co. have
received information to the effect that the
s.s. Sidney, homeward bound, collided
outside Yokohama with a steamer, and
that a delay of about two days in her
arrival in Hongkong on her way home will
probably be occasioned in consequence.

Madame Leiria, wife of Mr. J. J.
Leiria, Consul General for Portugal and
Brazil, has kindly consented to distribute
the prizes to the pupils of the Victoria
Anglo-Portuguese school, at the Club
Lusitano on Saturday. The Right Rev.
Bishop Pozzani will preside.

There were no cases of plague during
the past week, but of communicable
diseases there were four cases, one of
diphtheria, two of enteric fever and one of
small-pox. There was one Chinese death,
and one of the cases of enteric fever and
also that of small-pox were European
imported.

Messrs. Dodwell and Co. have been
notified that the *s.s. Adako*, bound from
Yokohama to Hongkong, has gone ashore
on the island of Ostina (Vries Island),
east coast of Japan, and is submerged.
Further particulars are awaited. The
Adako belongs to the Ocean Navigation
Co., Glasgow, for which Messrs. Dodwell
are the agents.

Harmston's circus still proves a great
attraction, and there is every indication of
its stay in the Colony being a successful
one. To-night there is to be a change of
programme, which should induce pa-
trons, as well as those who have not yet
paid the money a visit to turn up in large
numbers. Among the additional attrac-
tions will be the lifting of a full-sized
man by the strong boy.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

H. I. H. Princess Nashimoto is a
passenger by the *Kamo Maru*, en route to
join her husband in Paris.

The N. D. L. steamer *King Albert*
will convey President Roosevelt to Africa,
leaving New York on March 13.

Governor-General Smith, of the Philip-
pines, leaves for home on the 22nd April,
his passage being taken on the *Minnesota*.

President Roosevelt's enemies in Con-
gress have discovered that his barber is car-
ried on the pay-bill of the Treasury de-
partment as an account. There is a dis-
position to make further enquiries into
the discovery.

Amongst those present at Murray Pier
on Saturday to wish "God-speed" to Mr.
A. J. Brackenbury, late Private Secretary
to His Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard,
who left by the P. and O. *s.s. Delhi*, for
Nyasaland, were Miss Honniker, His
Excellency Major-General Broadwood,
Capt. Heathcote, A.D.C., Capt.
Simson, Capt. Taylor, A.D.C., to the
Governor, and Capt. Hart-Synnot.

THE DOCK DIVIDEND.

Mr. Thos. I. Rose, Secretary of the Hong-
kong and Whampoa Dock Company, in
forms us that subject to audit, the Directors
of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co.,
Ltd., will recommend at the forthcoming
meeting a dividend of 8 per cent.—\$4. per
share, pass \$21,000 to special account,
write \$28,000 off Cosmopolitan Docks and
Floating Plant, and carry forward about
\$284,000.

THE "ST KILDA."

A week or so ago our London cor-
respondent wired that the St. Petersburg
Supreme Prize Court had allowed the appeal
in the case of the steamer *St. Kilda*, which
was sunk soon after she left Hongkong by
the Russians, during the Russo-Japanese
war, and had directed the Prize Court at
Lyon to fix the amount of compensation.
Our telegram further indicated that no
claim would be allowed on account of the
rice and cotton which the *St. Kilda* had on
board. Messrs. Bradley and Co., the Hong-
kong agents of the unfortunate steamer,
now learn from London that the latter
part of the judgment refers only to Rice and
Cotton shipped by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha,
which represented only a very small part
of the freight on board the *St. Kilda*.
Something like 80 per cent. of the cargo
consisted of rice and sundries shipped by
Chinese, and it appears that the value of
the bulk of this cargo will be recovered,
so the decision, it will be seen, is of con-
siderable interest for local Chinese mer-
chants. But the latter will no doubt have
to wait some considerable time for their
money.

PREMYSLAV.

As will be seen by the advertisement on
our front page, this violin virtuoso will be
giving another concert in Hongkong on
Tuesday, 2nd February. The pleasure
and delight afforded by his last concert will
still be fresh in the memory of those who
attended, so it is unnecessary for us to add
words of praise for a musician whose fame
sounds through the whole of Europe and
most of the civilized world. We under-
stand this is Herr Leopold Premyslav's
final tour of the Far East, so it behoves
all lovers of good music not to miss this
chance of hearing one of the finest violinists
of the day. Mr. J. Cochran has kindly
consented to again assist at the piano. The
booking is in the hands of the Robinson
Piano Co.

Japan's subscription towards the
Italian earthquake relief fund already
exceeds Yen 400,000. The foreign com-
munities of Yokohama and Kobe are
contributing nobly.

NO POISON.

CHAMBERLAIN'S Cough Remedy has
been declared absolutely free from
any injurious substance by Government
and expert chemists, and mothers need
have no hesitation in giving it to the
smallest infant. For sale by all chemists
and storekeepers.

REIMS CHAMPAGNE.

'GEORGE CUILLEBERT'
(OUR SPECIAL BRAND).

This Wine has been especially put up for us in Reims and will be
found very favourably compared with many high priced wines.

Per Case, 24 Pint Bottles - \$24

H. Price & Co., Ltd.

WINE, SPIRIT & CIGAR MERCHANTS

No. 12, Queen's Road

Hongkong, December 16, 1907.

THE RUSSIAN LOAN.

(Exclusive Service supplied by Reuters,
via Bombay.)

LONDON, January 23.
The Continental portion of the
Russian loan has been issued at 89½.

**WHITE STAR LINER
SUNK.**

SMALL LOSS OF LIFE.

(Reuters Service to the *China Mail*.
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Ordinance 3 of 1894.)

LONDON, January 24.
The White Star liner *Republic*, with
761 souls on board, collided with an
unknown vessel off Nantucket Island,
U.S.A. All the passengers and crew
were rescued by a passing steamer.
The *Republic* sank.

FOUR PASSENGERS KILLED.

Later.
The *Republic* collided with the
Italian liner *Florida*, which also was
damaged. Four hundred and sixty
of the *Republic's* passengers were
transferred to the steamer *Baltic*, which
proceeded to New York. Four of the
Republic's passengers were killed in the
collision.

**AUSTRALIA'S NORTHERN
TERRITORY.**

**SUGGESTION TO ADMIT
CHINESE OPPOSED.**

(Reuters Service to the *China Mail*.
Copyright protected under
Ordinance 3 of 1894.)

LONDON, January

